

REMARKS

Introduction

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9-34 and 36-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 have been amended. Claims 2-5 and 8 have been cancelled. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 2, 7, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because they depend on claims 1 and 9, which are rejected earlier. Since Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 9 to address the Examiner's concerns and claims 7 and 10 depend upon claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of claims 7 and 10.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-13 and 39-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/27673 to Roosen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 39

Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose each limitation as recited in the claims. In particular, the Examiner alleges that a set memory 4, printer 5, and scanner 3 of Roosen could be interpreted to read on Applicants' storage unit, printing unit, and scanning unit, respectively. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "wherein the storage unit is selectively connected to one of the scanning unit and the printing unit," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 39. (emphasis added)

On page 3 of the Office Action mailed May 6, 2009, the Examiner cites paragraph [0063] of Roosen for allegedly reading on Applicants' "where the storage unit is selectively connected to one of the scanning unit and the printing unit," as recited. Further, regarding Roosen, the Examiner states that "after the scanned data is stored into memory 4 then the connection is cut and a connection between memory 4 and printer is active because the scanned image is read out from memory 4 into printer 5." However, Applicants respectfully submit that paragraph [0063] of Roosen as well as elsewhere within Roosen fail to teach or disclose the Examiner's allegation that "after the scanned data is stored into memory 4 then the connection is cut." (emphasis added) Instead, Roosen states the following:

"During the scanning of an original document, the scanner 3 generates digital image data and stores them in the set memory 4, whereafter the printer 5 reads out the image data from the set memory 4 and prints them on an image support, usually a sheet of paper. This process is controlled by the CopyController 6." (See [0063] of Roosen)

Thus, Roosen fails to describe any cut or disconnection with the Roosen memory 4 between the period the scanner 3 stores digital image data in the set memory 4 and before the printer 5 reads out the digital image data from the set memory 4. In other words, Roosen fails to provide any support for the Examiner's allegation that "after the scanned data is stored into memory 4 then the connection is cut."

Further, as stated in paragraph [0063] of Roosen regarding the scanning and printing processes, "this process is controlled by the CopyController 6." Upon further review of the Roosen Copycontroller 6, paragraph [109] states:

"On the command of the CopyController 6 the scanner unit 3, including the document feeder 110, is now started to scan documents one by one and pass the digital data thus

generated to the set memory 4, and the printer unit 5 is started to read the digital data out of the set memory 4 and print them on sheets of paper."

Thus the CopyController 6 of Roosen also fails to teach or disclose that the Roosen set memory 4 "is selectively connected to one of the" scanner unit 3 and printer unit 4 of Roosen. Rather, Roosen describes the CopyController 6 focus on a seamless continuous connection between the set memory 4 and scanner unit 3 and printer unit 4.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "wherein the storage unit is selectively connected to one of the scanning unit and the printing unit," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 39. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of independent claims 1 and 39 are earnestly solicited.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Roosen for at least the following additional reasons. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a scanning control unit outputting the scanned result to the storage unit through the input/output port and the first connector." (emphasis added)

Figure 2 of Roosen indicates that the Roosen scanner 3 is not connected to the set memory 4 via an "input/output port and the first connector," as recited. More specifically, Roosen illustrates a leader line with only one directional arrow facing the set memory 4 from the scanner 3, thus indicating that the connection from the scanner 4 to the Roosen set memory 4 is strictly an output connection. Another example of an output-only connection is illustrated with the Roosen OutputHandler 16, wherein, the leader line of the OutputHandler 16 also only has one directional arrow, indicating that, as described by its title, the OutputHandler 16 strictly outputs data from the apparatus 1 to the network 10 of Roosen. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a scanning control unit outputting the scanned result to the storage unit through the input/output port and the first connector," as recited in claim 3.

Independent claim 6

Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose each limitation as presently recited in independent claim 6. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a printing control unit reading the scanned result inputted from the storage unit through the input/output port and the second connector to print the scanned result." (emphasis added)

Figure 2 of Roosen indicates that the Roosen printer 5 is not connected to the set memory 4 via an "input/output port," as presently recited. More specifically, Roosen illustrates a leader line with only one directional arrow facing the printer 5 from the set memory 4, thus indicating that the connection from the set memory 4 to the Roosen printer 5 is strictly an output connection. Another example of an output-only connection is illustrated with the Roosen OutputHandler 16, wherein, the leader line of the OutputHandler 16 also only has one directional arrow, indicating that, as described by its title, the OutputHandler 16 strictly outputs data from the apparatus 1 to the network 10 of Roosen. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a printing control unit reading the scanned result inputted from the storage unit through the input/output port and the second connector to print the scanned result," as presently recited in independent claim 6.

Similarly, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a display unit displaying the scanned result read from the storage unit and inputted through the input/output port," as recited in independent claim 6. (emphasis added) The Examiner alleges that "FIG. 4 or display component 4" could be interpreted to read on Applicants' display unit. However, nothing in Roosen FIG. 4 nor set memory 4 in Roosen FIG. 2 indicates that a display unit receives scanned result data via an "input/output port," as recited. Further, a "display component 4" cannot be found in neither FIG. 4 or 2 of Roosen, but instead a set memory 4 is illustrated in Roosen, wherein only input or output is indicated from the print handler 25, scan handler, 26, printer 5 and scanner 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "a display unit displaying the scanned result read from the storage unit and inputted through the input/output port," as recited in independent claim 6.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of independent claim 6 are earnestly solicited.

Independent claims 9 and 13

Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose each limitation as recited in the claims. In particular, the Examiner alleges that a set memory 4 and storage unit 20 as well as a printer 5 and scanner 3 of Roosen could be interpreted to read on Applicants' plurality of storage units, printing unit, and scanning unit, respectively. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "wherein the scanning and/or printing unit prints the scanned result directly read from the storage units," as presently recited in independent claim 9, and similarly recited in independent claim 13. (emphasis added)

On page 9 of the Office Action mailed May 6, 2009, the Examiner cites "storage 20 and memory 4 are storage units for storing scanned or generated images." However, as illustrated in FIG. 2 of Roosen, the scanner 3 and/or printer 5 of Roosen cannot "directly read from the" Roosen storage unit 20, as recited. More specifically, data read from the storage unit 20 by either the scanner 3 or printer 5 of Roosen must first pass through the Roosen printer handler 25, wherein the print handler 25 sends the print data to either the Roosen set memory 4 or the Roosen copy controller 6. Only after receipt of print data from the print handler 25 by either the set memory 4 or copy controller 6 are the Roosen scanner 3 or printer 5 able to read data from Roosen storage unit 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Roosen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, "wherein the scanning and/or printing unit prints the scanned result directly read from the storage units," as presently recited in independent claim 9, and similarly recited in independent claim 13.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of independent claims 9 and 13 are earnestly solicited.

Dependent claims 2-7, 10-12, and 40-42

Applicants respectfully note that claim 7 is also rejected under §103(a) and that a full explanation of the rejection of claim 7 falls under the §103(a) rejection of the claim. Therefore, Applicants will assume that the inclusion of claim 7 with the §102(b) rejection was a

typographical error.

Further, for at least the reason that claims 6, 10-12, and 40-42 depend from independent claims 1, 9, and 39, which are allowable as pointed out above, and therefore contain all of the features recited therein, dependent claims 6, 10-12, and 40-42 are also allowable over Roosen. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 6, 10-12, and 40-42 are earnestly solicited.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roosen in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,869 to Chen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

For at least the reason that claim 7 depends from independent claim 1, which is allowable as pointed out above, and therefore contain all of the features recited therein, dependent claim 7 is also allowable over Roosen and Chen, whether taken alone or in combination with one another. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 7 are earnestly solicited.

Examiner's response to Applicants' arguments

Regarding claims 1 and 39, Applicant's arguments are moot due to new grounds of rejection. Regarding claim 8, the Examiner disagrees with Applicants point that "the cited reference fails to teach "Causing the storage unit to be directly connected to a printing unit." (See page 15 of Office Action mailed May 6, 2009) However, Applicants respectfully maintain that Roosen fails to specifically teach or disclose a direct connection between the Roosen set memory 4 and printer 5.

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Reply to the Office Action of May 6, 2009

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

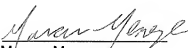
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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